

Graceys Wood Trial 7th March CoC Trevor Aston

By Clive Gracey

Graceys Wood on the edge of Tandragee was discovered by Trevor Aston some years ago, for years the other trialling residents of this County Armagh village had just driven past this wooded site, Trevor parked and explored the woods finding a steep area with trialling potential. In the past some of the hills were too tough with rocks and boulders which inflicted damage, at this event all such hazards had been avoided and a super 5 Hill event had been set by Trevor.

The turnout was smaller than normal-were some anxious regarding potential damage, they need not have feared. Mervyn McKinney had marked this event down as his dropped trial (like the writer members of the STCC over a certain age are excused CoC duties but then have to drop one event in lieu) Geoff McKay was down with flu, David Webster was on business in Dublin and couldn't make the start although he made an appearance later in the day and Concord restorer Alan Mackey was - well possibly running Ulster's only television channel.

Brian Edgar on arrival found that his Hamilton would not drive although it was running earlier on and had been driven into his van, on inspection it was found that one drive shaft was engaged and the other not then adding insult to injury the fault rectified itself and normal conditions resumed, this fault was to put Brian off all day leading to a very poor result-needless to say the car is now with 'Kintec'.

The Hills -1 was at the top of the site winding around the hill side and ending in a steep climb for a clean, 2 further down the steep wooded area twisting up to a very tough finish-only 2 cleans all day.3, 4 and 5

were at the far end of this site all were long and complex no room for any navigation errors all had very steep finishes.

And so scrutineering done, Trevor held a brief drivers meeting set tyres at 5 lbs and off we all went.

By the end of lap 1 John McKinney, Andrew McKinney and Simon Gracey all tied on 6 next best up Michael McBratney on 16 and for him the lead in Class B. The rest followed.

Lap 2 saw changes, Andrew stuck at the 4 on hill 4 pushing his total up to 11, John McKinney and Simon Gracey both were now on 7 and Michael McBratney held the lead in Class B with 26. Behind Michael Tom McKinney was on 27 to Harry Barr's 42 with an off form Brian Edgar on 43. By lap 3 John McKinney was in top form going round for only 2 lost to Andrews 3 and Simons 7, Hill 5's finish had got to Simon Gracey and cost him dearly the final throw up past the 3 marker eluded him all day and added 6 points to his final score.

Lap 4 and Andrew went round for a zero but too late as his final total of 14 was one ahead of John McKinney on 13 and the win, John has had a super 2nd half of the season after a poor start, Andrew is always there or thereabouts and this year Simon Gracey started really well but after a horrid set of results recently was today back on form ending on 18 and 3rd place. Brian's result could be blamed on the cars transmission which concerned him all day, so that was that and all went back to the Thursday Clubs venue at the top of the town for a pint and the results which were-

1st Class A John McKinney	Concord 13
2 nd Andrew McKinney	Concord 14
3 rd Simon Gracey	Crossle 18

1st Class B Michael McBratney Sherpa 37

2nd Class B Harry Barr Crossle 84